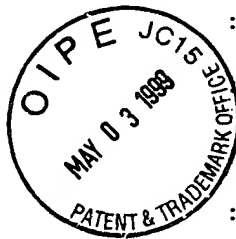


PATENT  
120194-4220A  
(124784A U.S.)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: JUAN A. VILLARREAL-TREVINO  
Serial No. : 09/252,875  
Filed : February 18, 1999  
For : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING  
DIRECT REDUCED IRON WITH IMPROVED  
REDUCING GAS UTILIZATION  
Art Unit : 1724  
Examiner : Not yet assigned



745 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10151  
April 28, 1999

I hereby certify that this correspondence  
is being deposited with the United States  
Postal Service with sufficient postage as  
first-class mail in an envelope addressed to:  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 28, 1999

Name of Applicant, Assignee or Registered  
Representative: A. Thomas S. Safford, Esq.

**RESPONSE** (re Notice to File Missing Parts of Application - Filing Date Granted)  
[including Surcharge per 37 CFR 1.16(e)]

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
BOX: **MISSING PARTS**  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**ATTENTION: Application Processing Division,  
Special Processing and Correspondence Branch**

Dear Sir:

The above-identified application having been filed with  
an unsigned Declaration, applicants hereby submit:

1. the signed Declaration including the names of the  
inventors plus the attorney docket number used when filed and/or  
the title used when filed and filing date {per MPEP 601.01};

2. FLH Check No. 5347 for \$130.00 [in payment of the surcharge required under 37 CFR 1.16(e)];

3. form PTO-1533 (entitled Notice to File Missing Parts of Application - Filing Date Granted);

4. A Rule 1.56 Information Disclosure Statement;

5. Form 1449; and

6. references cited in form 1449

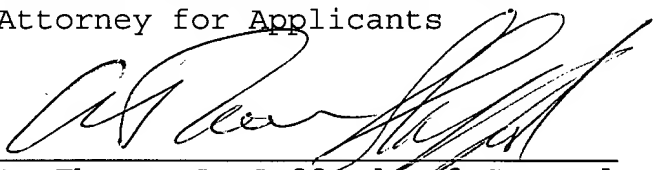
Please charge or credit our Deposit Account No. 50-0320 for any insufficient, omitted and/or excessive amounts for fees due in connection with any of the foregoing.

It is understood that this application is now complete and action on the merits in due course is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

**FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP**  
Attorney for Applicants

By:

  
**A. Thomas S. Safford**, of Counsel  
Registration No. 21,002  
TEL: 212-588-0800  
FAX: 212-588-0500

ATSS/  
Enclosures: As listed above